

# AETC revises mission, vision statements

**RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AETCNS)**—The commander of Air Education and Training Command approved a revised mission and vision statement May 25.

In his announcement, Gen. Don Cook said the new wording incorporates the expeditionary nature of today's operations in AETC and the Air Force.

"Whether we are deployed or in garrison in the schoolhouse, we should be thinking and teaching with an expeditionary mindset," the commander said.

The revised statements include the wording "expeditionary minded" to convey that focus. The word "Airmen" has also been capitalized in accordance with Air Force chief of staff policy announced earlier this year.

**Mission statement:**  
The First Command ... Recruiting, training, and educating professional, expeditionary minded Airmen to sustain the combat capability of America's Air Force.

**Vision statement:**  
Professionals integrating innovation and technology to recruit, train and educate tomorrow's expeditionary minded air and space leaders.

The changes to the mission and vision statement are the result of the command's development of a 2005-2006 strategic plan, said officials in the AETC Directorate of Plans and Programs here.

Organizations in the command should change documents and presentations as necessary, officials said.

## Finance phone numbers

**Military Pay, 846-8045**  
**Travel Pay, 846-6639**  
**DTS Helpdesk, 853-3782**  
**Debts , 846-8045**  
**PCS, 846-8045**  
**Sep., Retirement, 846-8045**  
**Civilian Pay, 846-7278**  
**Accounting Liaison, 853-2495**  
**Budget, 846-7312**  
**Financial Services, 846-7258**  
**Voucher Fax, 846-7602**  
**Hours of Operation**  
Customer Service, weekdays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. except Wednesdays. 8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Cashier, 8-11 a.m., 1-3 p.m.

## Daily seatbelt use checks

377th Air Base Wing Safety Office checked 9,605 vehicles for seatbelt use in May and found 223 violations for a 98.1 percent rate.



Photo by Keith Pedersen

## 101 Critical Days start

Rhiannon Grochowski hugs McGruff the Crime Prevention Dog at the safety fair, May 22, launching the 2004, 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign. The safety fair sponsored by the wing Safety Office at the BX included Sparky the Fire Prevention Dog and plenty of safety information for all ages. Former security forces member Frank Allen represented the New Mexico Motorcycle Foundation, providing information on motorcycle classes and safety information. Boy Scout Troop 85 gave fair visitors information on safe camping and the base fire department and security forces also provided safety tips as well. The New Mexico State Police demonstrated the importance of wearing seatbelts, using their vehicle rollover simulator with crash dummies, and New Mexico Four-Wheelers gave adults information for safety in four-wheel vehicles for rugged terrain. New Mexico Coast Guard Auxiliary members promoted safe boating.

# TRICARE provides services military can't

**BY LT. COL. CHARLES NELSEN**

377th Medical Group  
Business Operations Flight

TRICARE Prime, the DOD managed health care program, was created in the mid 1990s as a better way to provide health care services for all military health care beneficiaries.

The TRICARE Prime health care benefit is centered on the military treatment facility, with a community network of civilian health care providers, specialists and ancillary services for use by enrolled beneficiaries.

Our managed care partner is TriWest Healthcare Alliance, a Phoenix-based organization that includes a number of state Blue Cross/Blue Shield organizations and state university health care systems. Together with TriWest, the 377th Medical Group provides a full range of health care services to the members of our military community.

When faced with physician or medical provider manning shortfalls as a result of expeditionary operations, permanent change of station assignments, separations and so forth, military treatment facility commanders have a variety of options at their disposal to ensure the continued delivery of health care.

Temporary duty manning assistance, resource sharing and temporary contract hires are all options. However, per-

haps our greatest asset is our robust TRICARE Prime civilian provider network. Our Albuquerque-area TRICARE Prime network provides those services we are unable to provide within the military treatment facility, and it acts as a safety net during those times when we are unable to provide the required medical care within a reasonable time. In many cases, network-provided care is the most medically appropriate and cost-effective option.

Toward that end, we continue to strive to strike a balance between a mission-ready, fully manned and equipped military treatment facility, and a robust yet flexible TRICARE Prime network in the Kirtland AFB and Albuquerque community.

During the upcoming summer season, we will experience a turnover in physicians and other health care providers and staff due to the normal cycle of permanent change of station moves, military retirements and separations. In this time of austere manning we will call upon our civilian partners to supplement our ability to meet your healthcare needs.

We want to assure you that we are taking all possible actions to minimize the potential disruption, and to ensure the continued delivery of high quality, timely and easily accessible health care to our patients. We remain committed to our war fighters, their families and the members of our military community.

## Escaped staff sergeant returned to confinement

A staff sergeant who escaped from the Kirtland AFB confinement facility in the evening of May 29 was captured at a private home in Los Lunas, N.M., at 4:30 a.m., May 30, by federal agents from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and the FBI as well as officers from the Los Lunas Police Department. The Albuquerque Police Department also assisted in the search for the escaped sergeant.

Staff Sgt. Derrick M. Williams, who was being held on charges of alleged kidnapping, burglary, assault and battery, wrongful discharge of a firearm, communicating a threat, making false statements and assault of a law enforcement official, was returned to Air Force custody at 11:45 a.m., May 31, from the Valencia County Jail.

Security at the Kirtland AFB confinement facility has been enhanced.





The Quang Mihn Vietnamese Buddhist youth dancers, a fan dance performance group, entertained at the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Aloha Luau, May 25, at Bicentennial Park. The young dancers promote awareness of their culture, showcasing talents, participating each year in the special heritage month celebration.

# Kirtland AFB celebrates Asian Pacific Island roots



A dancing dragon, martial arts demonstrations by the tai kwon do students at the Kirtland youth center, food of the island cultures and dance performance groups were the order of the day May 25 at the annual Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Great Aloha Luau Cookout at Bicentennial Park. The heritage month theme was “Freedom for All, A Nation We Call Our Own. Dr. Dely Alcantara, a senior demographer at the University of New Mexico, was the guest speaker at the event. Lonika Majithia, right, performs a dance of her East Indian culture. The dance of the dragon warns off evil spirits while bringing good luck. Hawaiian Pride, left, includes Master Sgt. Vera Romano, Air Force recruiter, second from right.

